THE ODESSA AMERICAN

Largest Afternoon Circulation Between Ft. Worth And El Paso

Local News • Financial—2-D • Oil—3-D • Classified—7-9-D

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1968

SECTION **D**

Ector County Officials Face Similar Problem

Midland Integration Plan Greeted By Criticism

By COPE ROUTH
American Staff Writer

MIDLAND — The Midland Independent School District already has gone through the throes of a "rather substantial reorganization" at the secondary level to meet regulations of the federal government.

It was the same type of dilemma through which the Ector County Independent School District is currently suffering, following threats early in the week that some $400,000 federal funds could be cut off unless further Civil Rights compliance is achieved.

The trustees of the Ector County district were scheduled to meet at 1:30 p.m. today in special session to discuss the problem, which reached a climax in June with the visit here of a Civil Rights compliance team.

Midland, too, was visited by a Civil Rights compliance team.

And Midland, too, was politely informed of the threat of loss of federal funds as well as possible court action to force compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

So the trustees of the Midland Independent School District, which covers practically the entire county, adopted a plan, which calls for the two-way busing of students over a complicated pattern of routes.

"It was the best alternative we found to meet our problems," said Board President Gilbert Tompson.

"Each county has its own peculiar problems and we had ours.

"This involved not only the meeting of the legal requirements of the Civil Rights act, but in meeting an overloaded condition in some of our secondary schools.

"Because of a western shift in our population in recent years, we found ourselves with some fine schools that were not loaded and some which were overloaded."

So this fall, according to Supt. James Mailey, Midland will be transporting some 2,400 school students, instead of the 700 transported last school year.

The cost of providing this transportation will jump from $17,000 to approximately $35,000, according to "our best estimates."

Carver Junior-Senior High School, formerly an all-Negro school, will be closed completely.

"We have discussed the possibility of using the facility later for an adult-education program," said Tompson, "but no decision has been reached."

Seventh-grade and eighth-grade students will attend Alamo Junior High, located in far west Midland, Goddard Junior High, located in far north Midland, and San Jacinto Junior High School, in an older part of northwest Midland.

All ninth-grade students will attend either Edison Junior High, located on the extreme southern edge of the city, or Austin Junior High, located in northeast Midland.

Edison will receive all ninth-grade students, who normally would attend San Jacinto Junior High as well as the ones in its present district.

Some of these students will be bused two and three miles daily to their classes.

Some of the ninth-graders in Austin next year will be bused three and four miles.

At the same time the Latin Americans and the Negro students, who reside principally in east Midland and southeast Midland, will be divided equally among Midland and Lee High Schools.

"We are trying to get essentially the same proportion of Latin Americans and Negroes in all of our secondary schools," said Mailey.

So the Midland schools will start the new semester with an additional nine buses, three of them, ironically, purchased from the Ector County Independent School District as castoffs, and three new ones.

School officials declined to comment on whether the plan had been approved by the Civil Rights office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The plan is now under attack in U.S. District Court on the grounds that it's desegregation plan does not go far enough and the question of whether the plan has been accepted by the federal government probably will be important in this court action.

Hundreds of Midland school patrons, however, have vehemently attacked the plan as going too far in an effort to satisfy the federal agency.

Board Member Suggests Sitting Tight

Ector To Feel Welfare Cuts

About 85 of the 130 Ector County families receiving aid for dependent children will receive $12-per-month cuts starting Sept. 1.

Mrs. Estelle Lawson, Odessa unit supervisor for the State Department of Public Welfare, said she received notification of the slashes from the state headquarters in Austin.

Mrs. Lawson said notice of the cuts will be mailed to recipients with their August checks.

The average payment to the 130 families in Ector County eligible for AFDC is $91.98 per month. There are 447 Ector County children involved.

Mrs. Lawson said the average pavment each month for each child is $26.75.

Only those families receiving maximum benefits will be affected by the cuts, according to Mrs. Lawson.

The amount of benefits is calculated by the number of children in a fatherless home. A mother with one child is allowed to drawn a maximum of $72 a month while a mother with two children can get a maximum of $93. A mother with three children received $114 and a mother with four children is allowed the maximum of a $135 a month.

Each family drawing the maximum will be reduced $12 per month. Thus a mother with one child who had been receiving $72 will only get $60 starting Sept. 1.

Mrs. Lawson said a family can qualify several ways for AFDC funds. She said the majority in Ector County are drawing the funds because of death or mental or physical incapacitation of the father. She said desertion by the father is another reason.

There has been a one-third increase in the number of recipients in Ector County during the past year and Mrs. Lawson said she looks for even more applicants in view of the recent U. S. Supreme Court's "man in the house" ruling.

The high court recently outlawed the practice of denying AFDC to children because a man is living with their mother.

"In the past we had a policy of not giving grants if a man was living in the house," Mrs. Lawson explained.

"But now there will definitely be an increase because of the Supreme Court's ruling," she said.

Mrs. Lawson said she has received "many" requests for aid from families with a man in the house which were rejected in the past. "I'm concerned," she explained.

Welfare Commissioner Burton Hackney of Austin cited the rising welfare rolls as the main reason for the cuts.

"We deeply regret having to make this retrenchment," Hackney said, "But the state already is spending as much on welfare, including federal funds, as the Texas Constitution allows—$60 million a year."

Hackney noted that a proposed constitutional amendment, to be voted on in November, would raise the limit to $75 million.

Texas AFDC rolls have risen for the past several months by some 3,000 children each month, he said, and the "man in the house" ruling will further increase the rolls.

Three Persons Hospitalized After Crash

Three persons remained in Medical Center Hospital Thursday with injuries they suffered when their car went out of control Wednesday and plunged down a 25-foot embankment on Interstate 20 at the U. S. 385 overpass.

Reported in satisfactory condition were Mrs. Louie Holmes, 76, Baird, her 33-year-old son, C. B. Holmes, also of Baird, and Katie Lee Oliver, 73, of Mimbres, N. M. All suffered massive cuts and bruises.

Texas Highway Patrolman Gerald Bradford said Mrs. Holmes was driving a 1962-model automobile east on IS 20 at the time of the wreck at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

The officer said Mrs. Holmes was passing a large tractor-trailer when she lost control of the auto.

The car slammed into a guard rail on the median and then crashed into the bridge abutment before it overturned one time. The vehicle then rolled down the west embankment to U. S. 385 and came to a halt on its wheels.

Matter Of Record

COUNTY COURT

Marriage licenses issued: Cecil Fowler Alston and Billie Ruth Rackow; Raul Mauel De La Cruz and Carolina Silvas.

Criminal charges filed: Jerome F. Bronesky, threatening to take a life; Mrs. Jean Kee, defrauding.

DISTRICT COURT

Divorce suits filed: June Hudson vs. Robert Eugene Hudson.

Civil suits filed: Magdaleno Barraza vs. Jose Vega, damages; Ramon Mendoza Jr. vs. Betty Gene Bolley, damages; Fidelity Properties Inc. vs. Jefferson H. Flowers, suit on foreign judgment; Moore Production Equipment Co. vs. Wells Dixon, suit on sworn account.

MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL

Patients Admitted, July 31

Lisa C. Heaton, Lonnie T. Crawford, Saralyn Cameron, Mrs. Vernon Peters, Robert D. Dobson, Wm. J. Pond, Mrs. Homer L. Harkley, Randy Lynn Reed, Mrs. James E. Dennis, Mrs. J. C. Williams, Mrs. Bernard W. Ordener, Helen Carol Chatham, Mrs. M. V. McDonald Jr., Mrs. Gladys B. Cotter, Jerry Paul Carter, Elva L. Berdoza, Jess F. Lowery, Mrs. Douglas H. James, Riemundo G. Aguirre, Brian Cole, Jimmy L. Herrera, Andy G. Urias, Mrs. Alvin Hoey, Darrell Owens, Mrs. Irene L. Dorr, Mrs. David Bupp, Mrs. Ciell Pierson, Mrs. Don W. Hurst, Mrs. Betty Sorgreen, Mrs. Boyce E. Whisenhunt, Mrs. Carmen Bruno, Mrs. L. A. Croom, Mrs. Bobby B. Welch, Mrs. Pearl A. Clark, Mrs. Katie Lee Oliver, Debra L. Baird, Donnie O'Dell, Gerald L. Eubanks.

Patients Discharged, July 31

William S. Simpson, William E. Thompson, James Gary Jackson, Eric Victor Kelsher, Foran James Walley, Bobby Lynn Daniels, Mrs. Thurman N. Kent, Mrs. Albert L. Asher, Alan S. Cotter, Mrs. James Slaughter, Mrs. James D. Beene, Mrs. Raymond F. Collier, Mrs. Lola J. Norwood, Mrs. Frank P. Costa, Preston Turner, Mrs. Marcel H. Verschueren, Mrs. Curtis B. Newton, Mrs. Robert K. Bowen, Mrs. Stanley G. Eubanks, Kenneth W. Payne, Mrs. John R. Dubose, Wayne Wheeler, George Thomas Mallas, Mrs. Amos Alex Gilchrest, Mrs. Mildred A. Jones, Mrs. Lambert A. Lain, Mrs. Weldon E. Baird, Mrs. Mary E. Davis, Mrs. Gifford T. Hemphill, Mrs. Dallman Robert Brewer, Richard R. Harris, Lowell Barclay, Mrs. Larry D. Norrid, Mrs. Carl R. Dirden.

Births, July 31

Mr. and Mrs.:

J. Dennis, 403 East 47th, girl, 7 lb., 1½ oz.

CITY TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

West County Road and Kermit Highway — Ronald G. Wilkerson, 18, 1311 West 20th, and Bonnie Rigas Aubrey, 21, 3212 Eastland, Lewis Aubrey, 12, and Terry Boone, were injured. Damage, $150.

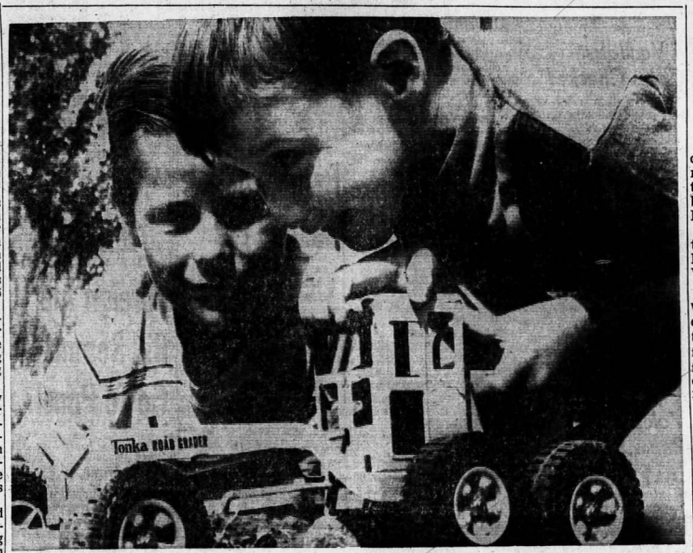
Elm and Canal — Linda Lummus Miller, 23, 203 Canal, and a parked car owned by Alfred L. Kerby, 1517 Hughes. Damage, $350.

Seventh and Elliott — Raymond Jerry Adams, 20, 207 East 43rd, and William F. Green, 19, Odessa. Damage, $200.

Eighth and Dixie — Margaret Reynolds, 25, 1804 North Adams, and Marie Christina Lujan, 22, 1010 South Crane. Damage, $50.

Grant and Monahans — Nicacio Chacon, 22, 802 South Dixie, and Jose D. Dominguez, 30, 932 South Jackson. Damage, $380.

1900 block of Sylvann Place — George P. William, 21, Fort Stockton, and a parked car owned by Duane E. Harkness, 1025 Sylvann Place. Damage, $210.



PLAYTIME — Darwin Weekes, 8, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Weekes, 1117 Placer, and Mike Colley, 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Colley, 1112 Placer, take up some spare summer hours Thursday by supervising a small construction project near their homes. Like most youngsters, they're taking advantage of lots of summer daylight remaining before school starts again in September. (Staff Photo)

Pupils Ready For Summer Band Schools

Hundreds of Odessa school musicians headed back to the band halls Thursday morning for the beginning of a month-long summer band school in high schools and junior high schools.

The schedule for each school:

Bonham Junior — Beginners and parents meet from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday with beginners' sectional rehearsals beginning at 1 p.m. Monday. Advanced students met Thursday morning.

Bowie Junior — Returning band students met Thursday morning and beginners and their parents were to meet Thursday afternoon. Rehearsals begin Monday at 8:30 a.m. for concert members and 1 p.m. for beginners.

Crockett Junior — Beginners and parents meet Friday at either 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals begin Monday at 9 a.m. for advanced students and 1 p.m. for beginners.

Hood Junior — Beginners and parents met Thursday morning. Rehearsals begin Monday at 8 a.m. for performing band and 1 p.m. for beginning band students.

Nimitz Junior — Beginners and parents meet Friday at either 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals begin Monday at 8 a.m. for advanced band and 1 p.m. for beginners.

Blackshear Junior — Not available.

Permian High — New sophomores meet Thursday morning and equipment will be issued at 9:30 a.m. Friday. Sophomores begin practice Monday and all band students will begin practice at 8 a.m. on August 15.

Odessa High — All sophomores and new students began Thursday morning and will meet each day at 8 a.m. with afternoons for individual help. All band students, who desire a place in marching or concert bands will meet at 8:30 a.m. on August 15.

Ector High — All students start at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

Chuck Wagon Gang To Feed---

YCMA Dedication Scheduled Sunday

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Odessa YMCA will get underway at 1 p.m. Sunday at the construction site, 27th and Nabors Lane.

And preceding the ceremony from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang will dish out barbecue lunches for $1.75 per plate.

The activities will take place under a huge tent that's to be popped into place Saturday.

John Ben Shepperd, who was general chairman of the YMCA fund drive, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Short talks will be given by Mayor Jim Reese, who also is president of the YMCA board of directors, and W. G. (Bill) Leggett, president of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce.

Shepperd has asked every interested citizen attending to bring a shovel and take part in the groundbreaking ceremonies.

"Please make every effort to be there Sunday and help get this needed community facility started with the same enthusiasm exhibited during the recent fund drive," said Shepperd.

Persons planning to eat a Chuck Wagon Gang lunch have been asked to telephone the YMCA office so the Gang will know how much food to prepare.

John Sims, YMCA executive director, said the builders will move equipment onto the site Monday and Tuesday.

Construction of the $810,000 structure is due to be completed by Aug. 1, 1969. Contractors are Area Builders Inc. and Peters and Fields are architects.

The two-story building will house a swimming pool, gym, men's and women's health clubs, meeting and game rooms, handball courts, lounges, sundeck, offices, kitchen and other facilities.

The entire site will be landscaped and will include a driving range, putting green, tennis courts and cinder track.

More than 2,000 volunteer workers helped raise the $990,000 to build and equip the facility, the first permanent YMCA building in Odessa.

Gabrel Heads State Group

AMARILLO (Staff) — Ector County Sheriff A. M. (Slim) Gabrel was elected President of the Sheriff's Association of Texas at the final session of the organization's 90th annual convention here Wednesday.

Gabrel was elected by unanimous vote after he was recommended by a nominating committee.

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A. M. (Slim) GABREL
. . . Elected President

Other new officers include R. C. Johnston, Dalhart, first vice president; Lewis Johnston, Anahuac, second vice president, and R. L. Gaston, Richmond, third vice president.

New directors are L. S. (Slim) Johnston, Canyon; Cecil P. Turner, San Angelo; Robert Gladney, Brazoria, and Wesley Stiles, Seymour.

Turner is outgoing president.

More than 420 lawmen from throughout the state were on hand for Wednesday's final session before the convention broke up shortly after noon. Also during the session, Galveston was selected as the site for next year's convention. The date for the convention was not set.

The new officers will serve until next year's gathering. Normally the organization elects its officers on a rotating basis, and each officer is advanced in position each year.

Gabrel was first vice president this past year.

Attending the convention with Gabrel were Don Reaves, head of the department's criminal division; Capt. Gib Roch, and Deputy T. Y. DePriest.

Leave Action To Washington

The board of trustees of the Ector County Independent School district was to receive a strong recommendation from one of its members this afternoon that the board reiterate to Washington its belief that the district is in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The district has been ruled not in compliance by the regional office in Dallas of the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health Education and Welfare.

It was so notified earlier this week and the regional director of the federal agency announced the Ector County file is being forwarded to Washington as the first step toward cutting off an estimated $400,000 annually in federal funds.

Lucius Bunton, an Odessa attorney and a member of the school board, said Thursday morning he would recommend that the board reaffirm its position that it is in compliance.

"I will recommend to the board this afternoon," he said, "that we contact Washington and advise them we feel we are in compliance."

The board was scheduled to meet at 1:30 p.m. in a special session previously called to receive bids on the sale of $4.8 million in school bonds vote in June.

"I'm going to recommend that we tell them we have cooperated with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

"It is my frank and personal opinion, from a detailed study of the Civil Rights Act and of court cases involved in the matter, that Washington will overrule the regional office and agree that we are in compliance."

Bunton said he felt the school district should be ready to send a representative or group to Washington to present the district's case.

"All of our records have always been open to them in the past and I think we ought to make them available in the future so they can fully understand our position." said Bunton.

He was asked about what alternative might be considered if Washington upheld's the regional office's contention that Odessa has not complied with the Civil Rights Law and desegregating its school system.

"I don't think they will but if they do then we'll have to consider the situation again," he replied.

Both Bunton and Robert Cox attorney for the school board, have made detailed studies of legal aspects of the Civil Rights Act in relation to efforts of Ector County schools to comply.

The board was first warned by a letter, dated February 22 but released publicly only Wednesday by Supt. Floyd Manry, that the Ector County district faced the loss of federal funds.

This was followed by another and similar letter, after an inspection by a four-man compliance team which visited here June 11-13, which again stated the district was not in compliance.

At the board's direction, Manry replied again that it was the feeling of the trustees that the district was in compliance.

It was in answer to this letter that Carl Flaxman, regional director for the Office of Civil Rights, said the file was being forwarded to Washington for the initiation of proceedings which could lead to cutting off the federal funds.

Marfa Area Receives Health Unit

MARFA (Special) — Amigos International Inc. has provided a health unit for the Marfa area to be used in conjunction with Baptist State Mission work already in progress.

Five men in Athens, members of the Amigos International Inc., took a 48-passenger school bus an converted it into a mobile office for doctors, nurses and dentists, who will serve on volunteer duty wherever needed in the river area. This non-profit organization is also non denominational.

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THE MEN did the work necessary to put the unit condition, themselves having only metal work done outside their shops.

The bus is white and yellow, and bears the name of the organization on its sides. It is the second one they have constructed. The other one designated Unit 1, is in the Brownsville - Harlingen area. There have been requests for six more units for the Valley, one for Jamaca, an one for Mexico. All work concerned with the project is done on a volunteer basis.

The Unit has a 5,000-watt generator, portable electric unit, air conditioner, dental chair, kitchen equipped with a two burner hot-plate, refrigerator, medicine cabinet, sink, sterilizer, and there are two lavatories, a comode, an an examination room, with table, and other necessary equipment, including an an air compressor.

A tank holds 85 gallons of water, and the butane tank will hold 25 gallons of fuel. The self-contained unit has a 110 volt electrical system.

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THE CAVITRON electric unit which is the most modern dental equipment, enables a dentist to clean teeth with ultra-sonic waves.

The entire Unit is estimated to be worth between $10,000 and $12,000 and took the men three months to get it in workable order.

The five men represent five different professions. The two who drove the unit to Marfa were Ed Nusko and Kenneth Fulton.

"Doctors, surgeons, registered nurses, who are dedicated and available, will come into the county for work with the medical unit as volunteers, and will offer no competition to established medical personnel," said Ed Nusko, director of Amigos International Inc.

Check Charge Filed

Mrs. Jean Kee, who listed a Midland address, is named in a hot check charge on file Thursday in Ector County Court. The woman, who was not in custody Thursday, is accused of cashing a bogus $46.41 check on June 10 at Shop De Los Llanos, 512 North Grant.